
THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN FOR 2015 – 2016

To: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 26 March 2015**

By: **Martyn Cassell, Community Safety and Leisure Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All wards**

Summary: **This report details the process undertaken by Thanet Community Safety Partnership to develop the Thanet Community Safety Plan for 2015-16.**

The report asks for the principles of the Community Safety Plan including its priorities and emerging issues to be agreed following approval from the Community Safety Partnership Working Party to allow partner agencies to work together to help reduce crime and disorder in the district.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (updated in various other legislation since) placed a number of obligations on the Council and other 'responsible authorities' (County Council, Police, Fire, Probation, Health via Clinical Commissioning Groups) to form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) that would enable agencies to work together to help impact upon crime and disorder, substance misuse and reduce re-offending in the local area. Thanet District Council facilitates the CSP on behalf of these agencies.
- 1.2 Each CSP is required to do a strategic needs assessment of all of the relevant data that partners collate and then pull this together into a strategy (the Community Safety Plan) that identifies priority issues and actions to try and resolve/reduce them.
- 1.3 The last year has seen further big changes proposed to the police and community safety landscape with the new 'Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill' being passed, wholesale changes to the Probation Service and the commissioning of victim support services to be undertaken by Police and Crime Commissioners. The Community Safety Plan makes due reference to these changes in the industry.
- 1.4 This report identifies the process undertaken to develop the Community Safety Plan and asks members to agree the priorities and emerging issues for 2015-16.
- 1.5 The Community Safety Plan priorities and draft action plan were considered by the CSP Working Party on 3rd March 2015 and received support from cross party members.

2.0 Thanet Community Safety Plan 2015/16 – development and detail

- 2.1 Each year the partnership undertakes a number of processes to get to the final Community Safety Plan. This year they were;
- Produce a strategic assessment
 - Consult with other partners and the public
 - Produce an action plan to detail what we will do over the next year
- 2.2 The purpose of a strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety issues to the members of the Thanet Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 2.3 Kent County Council community safety unit collated a range of data sets from county organisations. District Council Community Safety Officers then co-ordinated an assessment of this data. This was done considering patterns, trends and shifts in order to identify the priorities. Data was also compared to other districts in Kent and areas similar to Thanet. All key agencies supplied a representative to input into this process and this provides the basis for developing what we will do in the year to come to try and stop/reduce the impact.
- 2.4 A summary of the strategic assessment is provided within the draft Community Safety Plan found at annex 1. The partners took a slightly different approach than previous years. The traditional crime types Anti-social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Violent Crime, Substance Misuse, Acquisitive Crime and Road Safety continued to be identified as needing focus but agencies felt tackling them individually often led to a short term fix and wanted to attempt looking at the links/causes/risks involved in each. This led us to 4 priorities which cut across each of the crime types above and were therefore explored further at the annual Community Safety Conference;
- 1) Safeguarding People vulnerable to committing or being victim of crime;
 - 2) Reducing Re-offending;
 - 3) Tackling the drivers of crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - 4) Engaging with Partners and the Community.
- 2.5 Over 70 staff from agencies in the CSP attended the Community Safety Conference to discuss the priorities and identify 'emerging issues' that would fall under one or more of the priorities. Similar to last year it was decided that actions would be created under each emerging issue but that the action plan needs to be a fluid document that is able to change direction throughout the course of the year to ensure resource is directed to the most pressing issues and also because many actions could contribute to more than priority. The draft Community Safety Plan including the list of emerging issues is found at Annex 1.
- 2.6 Responsibility for delivery of the Community Safety Plan is shared amongst the senior managers of statutory members of the CSP Executive Group. The Executive group agreed the draft Community Safety Plan principles at their meeting of 26th February 2015, with understanding that the 'proposed actions' column may change either prior to the final publication of the plan or throughout the year as new trends/issues arise that outweigh the previously considered ones. The measure of success column is drafted but the individual leads for each action will determine the ultimate measures of success and feed this back into both the CSP Executive group and then via the Community Safety Partnership Members Working Party process.
- 2.7 Alongside the partner consultation, resident feedback is an essential part of the process. The CSP hold 16 Neighbourhood Engagement Meetings a year to give the

opportunity for the community to report local issues. These issues are dealt with accordingly by the relevant agency at the time but trends from the NEMs are also used to inform the strategic plan you see in Annex 1.

An online survey for residents to comment on whether they support the priorities ran the whole month of February. Response was lower than in previous years however more advertising was done than ever before. The feedback has however been used to amend the plan in-line.

Furthermore the Community Safety Forum held on 10th February 2015 was well attended with 38 attendees. Over 70% agreed or strongly agreed with the priorities and only 6% disagreed with no-one strongly disagreeing.

- 2.10 The CSP Working Party received a presentation of the draft plan at the meeting held on 3rd March 2015 and agreed to make a recommendation to Overview and Scrutiny to agree the principles of the plan and the suggested priorities/emerging issues.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 To approve the Draft Thanet Community Safety Plan 2015/16 principles, priorities and emerging issues as set out in Annex 1.
- 3.2 To make suggestions for improvement and then approve the Draft Thanet Community Safety Plan 2015/16 principles, priorities and emerging issues as set out in Annex 1.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 District Council Community Safety staff facilitate the Community Safety Partnership alongside their TDC function of anti-social behaviour case management. Salaries for these staff are covered within the budget for 2014-15.
- 4.1.2 The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has confirmed that Thanet Community Safety Partnership will be awarded a grant of £33116 to assist in the delivery of the CSP functions. This will be used for commissioning organisations, distributing to local groups for specific crime prevention projects and the development of publicity material to better inform residents of the help available to them.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 In relation to any decision or project implemented by any department in the local authority, under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the local authority has a duty to do all that it reasonable to prevent crime and disorder.
- 4.2.2 This Community Safety Plan provides evidence of compliance by the District Council and other responsible authorities of the statutory functions contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent updates in other legislation.

4.3 Corporate

- 4.3.1 The draft Community Safety Plan priorities in 2015-16 coincide with the corporate plan objectives set in the 2012-2016 plan (mainly priority 4 'To make our district a safer place to live' and priority 10 'To influence the work of other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for Thanet').

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 That, taking into consideration the recommendations from the CSP Working Party from 3rd March 2015; the Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommends to Cabinet the priorities and emerging issues in the Thanet Community Safety Plan 2015/16 as set out in Annex 1 are approved.

6.0 Decision Making Process

- 6.1 As the Community Safety Plan is a policy framework document, this report will go to Cabinet with final approval reserved to Council.

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Annex List

Annex 1	Draft Community Safety Plan 2015-2016
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Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Clive Bowen, External Funding Officer
Legal Services	Steven Boyle, Interim Legal Services Manager
PR	Hannah Thorpe, PR and Publicity Manager